## EXHIBIT 15

# Excerpts of Deposition of Denitza Batchvarova

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

CUNG LE; NATHAN QUARRY, JON )
FITCH, on behalf of )
themselves and all others )
similarly situated, )

Plaintiffs, )

vs. ) Case No.
2:15-cv-01045-RFB-(PAL)

ZUFFA, LLC, d/b/a Ultimate |
Fighting Championship and |
UFC, )

Defendant. )

VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF DENITZA BATCHVAROVA

Las Vegas, Nevada

January 25, 2017

9:11 A.M.

Reported by: Sarah Padilla, CCR NO. 929 Job No. 48403

28 26 introducing the athlete policy, that we were taking 1 super stars, no. 1 2 Q Do you recall if that is part of the 2 away 100 percent of their ability to derive 3 explanation for the discrepancy between the two 3 sponsorships. We always looked at it as we are 4 4 estimates? taking a small part of their -- we did not think 5 A I don't recall. But, I mean, there is --5 they were going to loose 100 percent of their 6 6 the announcement is done differently, so there is sponsorship, no. 7 7 lines that are on this page that are not on the Q Is it fair when we are talking about the 8 previous page. 8 athlete revenue that Zuffa was attempting to -- the 9 Q If you turn back to page 87 of the current 9 athlete sponsorship revenue that Zuffa was 10 exhibit, the presentation notes that, "Apparel 10 attempting to replace, we are referring to the 11 sponsors have small purses pointing to the UFC tax 11 revenue that they would lose under the outfitting 12 12 as the main culprit." Can you tell me what that program? 13 13 refers to? A The revenue that they were deriving 14 14 A At the time apparel companies who wanted walking into the octagon? 15 15 O Right. to -- that were sponsoring athletes going into the 16 octagon were paying an affiliation fee. And so they 16 A Not necessarily the revenue that they 17 17 were -- from what we had understood at the time -would lose, because some of them did not lose their 18 and Mr. Mersch is way better suited to explain --18 revenue. You know, some of them still have their 19 19 they were pointing to that as a reason why they were side agreements with different companies and some of 20 20 paying less to the athletes. them still have endorsement deals outside of walking 21 Q They, being the apparel sponsors? 21 into the octagon. So we were attempting to estimate 22 22 what they were deriving from walking into the A Sorry? 23 23 Q When you say "they," are you referring to octagon. 24 the apparel sponsors were saying that is why they 24 Q Right. Gotcha. 25 25 were paying less to the athletes? And did that include also fight week in 27 29 1 A Yes. 1 general? 2 Q And the affiliation fee that is being 2 A Yes. I mean, it includes the official 3 referred to here is the UFC tax? 3 events during fight week, so it includes press 4 A Yes. 4 conference, includes media day, open workout, and 5 5 weigh-ins, and the event. Q And the analysis presented in this 6 6 Q So under the athlete outfitting program, presentation, did it assume that the fighters' 7 current sponsorship revenue would be maintained 7 during all of those events, they could only wear the 8 under Project Next under the operating agreement? 8 official uniform that was adopted; isn't that right? 9 A Which sponsorship are you referring to? 9 A They would have to comply with the athlete 10 10 Q The outside sponsorship revenue. outfitting policy, which doesn't necessarily mean 11 A This analysis essentially was attempting 11 wearing a uniform. But outside of those events, 12 12 they could do whatever they want. to -- it was assuming that we would replace it with 13 13 revenue that we were distributing back to them. Q Gotcha. 14 14 A During fight week. Q Okay. 15 And this -- I just want to clarify that 15 Q If you look on the bottom of the page 878, 16 this only refers to sponsorship revenue derived by 16 it says, "We have assumed that fighters are made 17 17 athletes during our -- during their official events whole on existing income generated. No assumption 18 when representing UFC. So walking into the octagon, 18 has been made on incremental revenue generated 19 press conferences, media days is their events. We 19 through Project Next." It says, "UFC can either 20 20 don't have and we never had and never want to have retain all incremental revenue or share a percentage 21 21 any rights to athletes outside of the octagon, what with the fighter. Zuffa would look to generate a 22 they do in the 360 days that they are not officially 22 meaningful profit in a second deal on Project Next." 23 23 fighting or officially -- at official UFC events. Can you explain what that means?

A It -- I'm sorry. This is from 2013, so I

am struggling a little. But I think that the --

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So we always saw that we are not -- you

know, we did not think that we were through

62 1 O Okay. Do you know if fighters at the time 1 negative, I don't think that we were prepared for 2 were being compensated under that interpretation? 2 the amount of negative feedback that came from --3 A I believe so. There was nothing that 3 from the general public. I don't think that even, 4 would lead me to believe we weren't compensating our 4 you know -- obviously there was some athletes that 5 athletes based on our agreements with them. 5 were extremely vocal -- negatively vocal about it. 6 Q Okay. So I am handing you what has been б But at the same time the general public did not like 7 marked Exhibit 101, which is Bates stamped 7 it either. 8 ZFL-1103001 and attachment Bates stamp ZFL-1103002. 8 So it was my -- I run strategy. My job 9 (Exhibit 101 was marked.) 9 is to throw ideas out there and start conversation. 10 10 BY MR. SILVERMAN: So this was one of those things that I throw out 11 11 Q Let me know when you have had a chance to there, "Hey, should we try to look at things long 12 look through it. 12 term and should we try to come up with something 13 13 A Okay. that allows us to defend ourself from what 14 Q Did you write this e-mail in the ordinary 14 potentially could be coming at us?" 15 15 course of business? Q So was the plan that you are proposing a 16 A I did. 16 plan about a way to structuring fighter 17 Q And did you draft the attachment as well? 17 compensation? 18 A I did. 18 A It was really more a plan to, "Hey, should 19 19 Q Okay. Can you describe what the we think about how we go forward with, you know, attachment is? 20 20 structuring fighter compensation?" It is a very --21 A It was a kind of proposal on my part, 21 to this day, fighter compensation is very -- it's 22 22 obviously as part of strategy. At the time after we disjointed. I wouldn't say there is a structure 23 announced the athlete outfitting policy, there was 23 around it. You are dealing with individual 24 kind of a lot of negative feedback and a lot of 24 athletes. You are dealing with 180 athletes, I 25 noise in the market around our athletes, from our 25 think, currently on the roster. So every 63 athletes as well. And so obviously it was my 1 1 conversation is a different conversation. 2 attempt to kind of help or figure out something that 2 3 would allow us to as a company come up with a 3 4 strategy in how we want to deal with that and how we 4 5 5 want to deal with the fact that, you know, our 6 athletes are not happy, there is competition, that I 6 7 can go and fight anywhere else, how do we -- it was 8 my attempt to essentially get people to start 8 more in them. So we know it is going up. 9 9 thinking about that in a more organized way. 10 You know, it was not an easy -- we knew 10 11 that the athlete outfitting policy is a tremendous 11

amount of change. That's why, if you look at all the documents, we started working on it two years -two, three years prior to it actually coming into place. It wasn't something that we did lightly. And we always looked at it as something that was a net positive for everyone in involved, definitely a net positive for the athletes as much as possible in the short run and in the long run as well. But, you know, I think that we -- so that's why there is so many documents going back and forth in terms of how we want to do it, what is the right way, how do we make the athletes even, all of that.

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Having said that and as much as we knew it was going to be a big change and change is scary and

But, you know, athlete composition is one of those items for us where it continues to grow. It is not going down. It is only going up. It is purposely going up, right. We are purposefully making sure that we are paying athletes more. We are taking care of them. We are investing more and

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So the question is let's think about it. You know, let's think about it constructively, let's think about there is -- athletes want more guaranteed money. They don't want discretionary money. All these things -- minimum compensation, all these things are things that, "Why not actually try to think about those a little more strategically than what we are doing today?"

So this was my plan of, "Could we start thinking about it? Could we have a group of people that sits down and starts creating some kind of a long term strategy to make sure we continue to be a leader and we retain our athletes or retain our athletes and that we do more and more for them." But it didn't go anywhere.

Q So here when you are talking about fighter compensation in this presentation, you are talking

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74 76 financials. And it is also the most unpredictable 1 don't think we even got to putting together a list 1 2 of, "Hey, who is coming up?" I know that Tracy Long 2 line item in our financials, meaning that, you know, 3 always has a list of contracts that are expiring. 3 this year alone we thought that in the beginning of 4 So I think that is probably where it would have gone 4 the year our budget pointed to athlete costs being 5 anyhow. \$135 million. At the end of the year they were 6 6 Q Was this plan shared with Lorenzo, do you actually \$160 million that is -- close to \$160 7 7 know? million. 8 8 A I don't recall. So that is a huge variation for a business 9 9 Q Did you ever have any meetings with anyone that -- you know, it is something that I really wish 10 about this plan? 10 I had some visibility ahead of time. Because that 11 A Besides Nakisa who I sent this to, I don't 11 means, as athletes costs grow and they grow with --12 believe it got anywhere further. 12 how do I say it -- in a way that you can't predict 13 Q On the second point of the review you are 13 and you can't plan for, it impacts the rest of our 14 14 proposing, you said, "Building a defensive strategy. business. It means that we need to cut costs 15 How do we prevent other MMA promotions from taking 15 elsewhere. It needs to come out of somewhere -- or advantage of the situation?" What did you mean by 16 16 we just need to plan for it. 17 17 So this was one of those things where 18 A I mean, we are in a competitive market. 18 we've never had -- we actually don't -- we don't 19 19 There is a lot of other organizations that would have visibility into the long term athlete costs. 20 love to have our athletes. So it was really just 20 This one of those things where, "Hey maybe we should 21 a -- it was really meant to think about how do we 21 start thinking about some kind of strategy that 22 22 continue to -- you know, how do we avoid that, how allows us to plan for increases that are happening, 23 do we avoid, you know, Bellator taking some of our 23 to plan for the continued, you know, enhancements 24 athletes, how do we avoid World Series of Fighting 24 that are coming down the line." So we did not get 25 coming and taking some of our athletes," so yeah. 25 there. 77 75 1 1 Q Were you planning to, in this project, Q Under project scope, the first point you 2 address that potential risk through a compensation 2 wrote "Create proposals for all high priority 3 3 athletes as identified last Thursday whose contracts plan primarily? 4 A This was as much as my thought process got 4 expire within one or two bouts." Do you recall what 5 5 you are referring to about "identifying high to at that point. 6 6 priority athletes last Thursday"? Q Okay. So the third point you mention a 7 7 compensation strategy as part of this plan that you A I don't. I really don't. 8 were proposing; is that right? 8 Q And point No. 3 says, "Review and evaluate 9 9 A Yes. Because, as I mentioned earlier, fighter compensation and its components as a percent 10 10 fighter compensation is going up, it has since the of total revenue historically and as projected and 11 beginning of the company. And it just -- I think 11 identify optimal target based on overall company 12 12 knowing that that is going to continue to do, how do margin." Why were you proposing to evaluate fighter 13 13 we do that? How do we continue? How do we continue compensation as a percent of total revenue? 14 growing compensation? And how do we prepare for it, 14 A It is that -- I mean, it is one of the 15 if you will? 15 ways that you could look at being able to project as 16 16 You know, there is so many aspects of our to look at historical benchmarks and look at them, 17 17 business that are changing all the time. So it is you know, on a going forward basis. So it is 18 18 just one of those things where, "Hey, we should just -- it is a potential way do be able to express 19 probably think about do we have a strategy around 19 on a relative basis what the compensation is. 20 20 it?" Q How about that particular metric, fighter 21 21 One thing that I think -- from my compensation as a percent of total revenue? Why 22 perspective, one of the functions you asked me 22 were you proposing to look at that metric? 23 23 earlier, what I receive. I receive financial A It is a revenue being all the income

sources. It is a very typical way to look at any of

your costs as a percent of revenue.

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planning and analysis. Well, fighter costs are the

biggest cost line item that we have in our

200 198 1 were supplying legal advice in that answer? 1 questions. I think you are done. We are all done. 2 2 MS. LYNCH: Okay. If we can just take five A I have absolutely no recollection of what 3 minutes so that I can talk to Brent and just see if 3 my response was to John, so --4 4 we have any follow-up questions. Q I'm handing you what has been marked as 5 MR. SILVERMAN: Sure. 5 Exhibit 122. And it is Bates stamped ZFL-2508353 6 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are off the video 6 and attachment ZFL-2508355. 7 record. The time is 4:05 P.M. 7 (Exhibit 122 was marked.) 8 (A short recess was taken.) 8 BY MR. SILVERMAN: 9 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on the video 9 Q If you look at the e-mail on top, you are 10 record. The time is 4:15 P.M. You may proceed. 10 CC'd on this; is that right? 11 -----11 A Yes, I am. **CROSS-EXAMINATION** 12 Q Can you tell me what the attached --12 13 who -- first let's start can you tell me who Vinci 13 BY MS. LYNCH: 14 Partners are? 14 Q Hi. This is Marcy Lynch. On the record I 15 A Vinci Partners, to the best of my 15 am just going to ask you a couple of follow-up 16 understanding, is a product equity firm in Brazil. 16 questions. If you can turn back to Exhibit 119 that 17 Q And do you know what the purpose of this 17 Mr. Silverman entered as an exhibit. And part of 18 attached presentation was? 18 your testimony was that you believed the UFC was 19 A I don't know. I am not aware of it. currently underpaid for the value you deliver to 19 20 Q Do you know why Nakisa Bidarian CC'd you 20 Fox; is that correct? 21 on the e-mail with this presentation attached? 21 A Yes. 22 A When I joined the company, we were looking 22 Q Okay. And would you also apply that same 23 to create a joint venture in Brazil with a strategic 23 statement to the value for Pay-Per-View tickets? 24 partner. So that process continued for a number of 24 A From a Pay-Per-View price, our objective 25 months. And we ended up not moving forward with a 25 is always to provide value to the consumer. So when 201 199 1 strategic partner down in Brazil. So as part of 1 we think about the next Pay-Per-View event and fight 2 that, as soon as I joined the company, I was kept 2 card for that event, we always think of it as, "Are we providing enough value for the \$60 that consumers 3 informed of the process. But I was not active in 3 4 part of the process. 4 are going to pay for it?" So when we think of a 5 5 fight card, we think of it always as -- you know, Q Did you have any conversations with Vinci Partners or any input into this presentation? 6 6 "Is this a Pay-Per-View card," which essentially 7 7 A No. I did not. I did not. I don't means is this -- "Do we believe this is providing 8 believe that -- I don't believe this was a 8 enough value to the consumer, you know, knowing that 9 9 we are asking to pay \$60 for every event?" presentation that I was put to verify or any 10 collaboration with them. It seems like it was a 10 Q Between 2008 and the date of this 11 presentation that they did develop by themselves. 11 presentation in 2014, had the UFC raised ticket 12 12 Q Do you know who commissioned that prices on Pay-Per-View events? 13 13 presentation from Vinci Partners? A No, we had not raised prices. We raised 14 MS. LYNCH: Objection to form. 14 Pay-Per-View prices by \$5 in 2015, which was the 15 BY MR. SILVERMAN: 15 first time since 2008. 16 16 Q Strike that. Q What were the considerations in raising 17 17 Pay-Per-View prices in 2015? Did Zuffa -- do you know if Zuffa 18 commissioned this report from the Vinci Partners? 18 A I think it was an ordinary course of 19 A I'm not aware if we commissioned it. 19 business. We had kind of looked at boxing, which 20 20 Q Do you know who else was working on this was the only kind of other sport which is usually 21 21 consumed on a Pay-Per-View basis, which is priced at potential private equity deal in Brazil? 22 A It really was Lorenzo Fertita, John 22 \$70. We looked at the fact that we hadn't raised 23 Mulkey, Lawrence Epstein, Kirk Hendrick, Marshall 23 the prices -- we hadn't raised the prices of 24 24 Pay-Per-View for a long period of time, and Zelaznik, Nakisa Bidarian, and Joe Carr. 25 MR. SILVERMAN: Okay. I think that is all my essentially inflation had outpaced us significantly.

And so we thought that, ordinary course of business, moving Pay-Per-View by \$5 was getting back to some market, if you will.

#### Q Did you consider the value provided to consumers when you raised the ticket prices in 2015?

A Yeah. Absolutely. We still -- as I said, we always look at a Pay-Per-View events as an event in which we have to -- we have to -- there is no subscription in Pay-Per-View. So for every single event we are starting from buy zero. You have to convince consumers to buy it.

So every time, you know, if the price is \$55 or \$60 or \$65, essentially, every time you put out a Pay-Per-View event, we are putting the card, we are putting them in a way, "Look. Our objective is for people to say this is worth buying." And they are factoring that in when they are saying, "I am going to pay \$60 for this card. Is this worth paying 60?"

And I think that if, you know, you look at some of the, you know, the bloggers or the kind of feedback, it is very common for people to say, "This is not worth \$60," or "This is well worth the \$60." So our objective always is in how we build the fight cards. And something that Dana -- you can probably

starting off -- all of a sudden you have a two-week

marketing window to convince consumers to purchase

- 3 the Pay-Per-View. And so what -- for us, we just
- 4 looked at how do we mitigate, you know, creating
- 5 some strategies on either bulking up the card even
- 6 more to allow even if a matchup falls off, it is
- 7 still a very good fight card, or working with some
- 8 athletes to kind of make sure that they are prepared
- 9 in case someone falls off. But essentially we are a
  - lot more active in making sure that the Pay-Per-View cards were -- we had a strategy around to make sure

that every Pay-Per-View event was worth the extra \$5. One, it was the worth the \$60, but worth even more, you know, to the consumers.

Q And when the UFC prices tickets for live events — and if I am using the wrong phasing for that — when people actually physically go to watch an event live, are there variations in the ticket

prices, or are they the same across the board?

A There is much variation. Because, just like the Pay-Per-View events, we sell a very different product every time. Every one of our events is a different product from the previous event. So we would price tickets according to -- in particular to the live events, we would price it

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talk to him about is that we are always building it
to provide value to the consumer. That is always
our objective. And when various prices, it just
raises the stakes that much more.

#### Q And did Zuffa see a decrease in Pay-Per-View buys in 2014?

A 2014 was the worst year for us -- well, not the worst year. It was -- in our modern history, it was the worst year in Pay-Per-View purchases for events. It was driven by a number of factors.

### Q What did the UFC seek to do in 2015 to potentially improve on the 2014 Pay-Per-View buys?

A We looked to come up with a strategy to mitigate fighters falling off of Pay-Per-View events. That was one of the biggest issues is that, I want to say, in 2014 out of the 13 Pay-Per-View events that we had, we had eight of those the main event fell off within a couple weeks from the event. So that is -- from our perspective, every single Pay-Per-View event, you know, we are starting from zero in terms of marketing and marketing the athletes and creating interest in it.

So when you have athletes falling off, you know, two weeks before the event, now you are

according to what market we are in, what the competition is in the market, who the athletes on the card are, and how much interest we think there will be in attending that event.

## Q And has the UFC been able to sell out all of its events based on its ticket prices per each event?

A No, we are not. I mean, I would say even in instances -- we always try to price ticket prices -- so obviously you don't set ticket prices thinking, "Okay. No one is going to come." You set them with the intention that people will buy the tickets and attend. But there are plenty of instances where we price and realize that we've priced too high, so we have to take prices down to allow for a higher sell-through.

I want to say, on average our sell-through is possibly in the 70 percent -- 70 some percent. So we are -- there is events that are sellouts, obviously, that are headlined by some of the key matchups and more attractive matchups. But we are far from selling out every single event.

Q And are there events that you believe have been priced too high that have resulted in fewer sell-throughs?

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1	A Yes, multiple. Both here and the Vegas	1	STATE OF NEVADA)
2	market, outside of the Vegas market, yes, there are.		) ss
3	Q Okay. I don't have any other questions.	2	COUNTY OF CLARK)
4	MR. SILVERMAN: Okay.	3	
5	THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This concludes today's	4	I, Sarah Padilla, a duly commissioned and
6	deposition of Denitza Batchvarova on January 25,	5	licensed court reporter, Clark County, State of Nevada,
7	2017. The time is 4:23 P.M. We are off the video	6	do hereby certify: That I reported the taking of the
8	record.	7	deposition of the witness, Denitza Batchvarova,
9	(TIME NOTED: 4:23 P.M.)	8	commencing on Wednesday, January 25, 2017, at 9:11 A.M.;
10	(TIME 1.0 TBB. 1.25 T.M.)	9	That prior to being examined, the witness was, by me,
11		10	duly sworn to testify to the truth; That thereafter I transcribed my shorthand notes into typewriting and
12		12	that the typewritten transcript of said deposition is a
13		13	complete, true, and accurate record of said shorthand
14		14	notes. I further certify that I am not a relative
15		15	or employee of any attorney or counsel of any of the
16		16	parties nor a relative or employee of an attorney or
17		17	counsel involved in said action, nor a person
18		18	financially interested in the action; that a request
19		19	[x] has [] has not been made to review the transcript.
20		20	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
21		21	hand in the County of Clark, State of Nevada, this 14th
22		22	day of February.
23		23	
24		24	CADALIDADILLA CCD 020
25		25	SARAH PADILLA, CCR 929
	207		209
1		1	INSTRUCTIONS TO WITNESS
2	STATE OF	2	INSTRUCTIONS TO WITHLESS
3	) :88	3	Please read your deposition over carefully
4	COUNTY OF )	4	and make any necessary corrections. You should state
5	COUNTY OF	5	the reason in the appropriate space on the errata
6		6	sheet for any corrections that are made.
7	I, DENITZA BATCHVAROVA, the	7	After doing so, please sign the errata sheet
8	witness herein, having read the foregoing	8	and date it.
9	testimony of the pages of this deposition,	9	You are signing same subject to the changes
10	do hereby certify it to be a true and	10	you have noted on the errata sheet, which will be
11	correct transcript, subject to the	11	attached to your deposition.
12	corrections, if any, shown on the attached	12	It is imperative that you return the original
13	page.	13	errata sheet to the deposing attorney within thirty
14	page.	14	(30) days of receipt of the deposition transcript by
15		15	you. If you fail to do so, the deposition transcript
16	DENITZA BATCHVAROVA	16	may be deemed to be accurate and may be used in court.
17	DEMIZE BETTER TROOTS	17	,
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20	Sworn and subscribed to before	20	
21	me, this day of	21	
22	, 2017.	22	
23	, 2017.	23	
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25	Notary Public	25	

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